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Northfleet Urban District Council.



# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

## Medical Officer of Health

For the Year 1955

BY

M. F. McDONNELL, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH



# NORTHFLEET URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

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## *Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year ended 31st December, 1955*

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TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE  
NORTHFLEET URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in submitting my Annual Report for the year 1955 upon the public health circumstances of the Urban District of Northfleet.

**Population.** The Registrar General's estimate for the year was 19,630, an increase of 180 over the preceding year.

**Births.** Births during the year numbered 300, being 155 males and 145 females. This gives a birthrate for the district of 15.28 per 1,000 population—a decrease from 1954, when the number born was 300 and the rate 16.19. The birthrate for England and Wales for 1955 was 15.0.

**Deaths.** Deaths in Northfleet during the year numbered 200. This gives a rate per thousand population of 10.18 compared with a rate of 10.23 in 1954. The rate for England and Wales in 1955 was 11.7.

**Natural Increase of the Population.** Births registered for Northfleet during the year exceeded the deaths by 100. The figures for the corresponding period in 1954 was 116.

**Infant Mortality Rate.** During the year deaths of infants under one year of age numbered 7, representing a rate of 23.33. The corresponding rate for England and Wales in 1955 was 24.9.

**Health Services in the Area.** A summary of the Health Services provided by the Kent County Council as the Local Health Authority under the National Health Act is included in the usual form in the report.

**Atmospheric Pollution.** Northfleet, as a constituent member of the Thames-Side Advisory Committee for the abatement of atmospheric pollution, continued with its measurement of air pollutants in the district, and I have shown in the report the monthly variations, as shown by the contents of the standard deposit gauge.

In conclusion, I have again to record my appreciation of the help and encouragement afforded me by the Council during the year, and to extend to my fellow officers and staff my appreciation of their co-operation and loyalty.

Your obedient Servant,

M. F. McDONNELL,  
*Medical Officer of Health.*

## MEMBERS OF THE HEALTH COMMITTEE.

1955.

Councillor T. S. WHITE (Chairman)  
,, W. J. DAWSON  
,, C. A. HALL  
,, Miss I. B. F. McDOUGALL  
,, K. H. PRICE  
,, E. J. J. C. ROUSE

1956.

Councillor T. S. WHITE (Chairman)  
,, A. J. C. FARLOW, C.C.  
,, C. A. HALL  
,, Miss I. B. F. McDOUGALL  
,, K. H. PRICE, J.P.  
,, MRS. M. VANCE

*Member of No. 5 Area Sub-Committee, Kent County Council :*

1955 Councillor W. J. DAWSON

1956. Councillor MRS. M. VANCE

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*Clerk :*

MR. W. G. FUTCHER

*Solicitors :*

Messrs. CHURCH, BRUCE & Co.

*Officers in Public Health Department :*

*Medical Officer of Health :* M. F. McDONNELL, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.  
*Chief Sanitary Inspector :* J. S. COWPLAND, C.S.I.E.B., Meat and Food Inspector  
*Additional Sanitary Inspector :* A. J. MUNFORD, C.S.I.E.B., Meat and Food Inspector  
(Resigned March, 1956).  
*Clerk :* MISS C. E. KEEN.



# STATISTICAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF AREA.

Area (Including 397 acres of Tidal and Inland Water and Foreshore) ...	4,162
Population (Census 1951) ... ..	18,803
Population (Census 1931) ... ..	16,080
Population (Registrar General's Estimate 1955) ... ..	19,630
No. of Inhabited Houses (31st December, 1955) ... ..	6,054
No. of New Houses erected during the year ended 31st December, 1955 ...	135
Rateable Value, 1955 ... ..	£250,891
1954 ... ..	£131,359
1953 ... ..	£126,371
Sum represented by penny rate, 1955 ... ..	£526
1954 ... ..	£554
1953 ... ..	£515

## PHYSICAL FEATURES AND GENERAL CHARACTER OF THE DISTRICT

Northfleet has for its northern boundary the River Thames. On its eastern boundary the Borough of Gravesend. The Rural Districts of Dartford and Strood form the southern boundary and the Urban District of Swanscombe is on the west. The level of the ground is approximately 0 feet above sea level on the northern boundary and rises to approximately 300 feet on the southern boundary. The high level of employment has increased considerably over the area during the past few years. The number of people employed in the major industries is shown by the tabulated list below as approximately 6,000.

	M.	F.	Total
The Amalgamated Press Ltd. ... ..	619	161	780
A.P.C.M. (Bevans Works) ... ..	642	58	700
Bowater's Thames Paper Mills ... ..	1,075	111	1,186
Britannia Lead Co., Ltd. ... ..	143	7	150
Gravesend Welding & Electrical Eng. Works Ltd. ... ..	110	9	119
W. T. Henley's Telegraph Co. and Tyre Co. ... ..	1,599	1,151	2,750

## VITAL STATISTICS.

### Births.

Births notified during 1955 total 300, being 155 males and 145 females.

The number of births this year, 300, showed a slight decrease compared with the preceding year, as shown in the table below :—

	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
Number of Births ... ..	305	280	334	315	300
Birth Rate per 1,000 population	16.18	14.62	17.32	16.19	15.28
Number of Illegitimate Births ...	7	8	5	9	7

	Total	M.	F.
Still Births : Legitimate ... ..	6	4	2
Illegitimate ... ..	—	—	—

## Deaths.

The registered deaths during the year totalled 200, 111 males and 89 females.

The numbers given are those registered during the year 1955, as adjusted for inward and outward transfers. I am informed that it is not practicable to include with the figures separate records of the inward and outward transfers.

The table below gives the comparison for the previous 4 years :—

	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
Number of Deaths ... ..	222	226	205	199	200
Death Rate per 1,000 est. pop. ...	11.77	11.80	10.63	10.23	10.18

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age :—

Total Infant Deaths ... ..	...	...	...	...	7
All Infants per 1,000 Live Births ... ..	...	...	...	...	23.33
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 Legitimate Live Births ... ..	...	...	...	...	23.89
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 Illegitimate Live Births ... ..	...	...	...	...	Nil
Deaths from Measles, all ages ... ..	...	...	...	...	0
Deaths from Whooping Cough, all ages ... ..	...	...	...	...	0
Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age ... ..	...	...	...	...	4

## NORTHFLEET DIAMOND JUBILEE SAMARITAN FUND.

The following is an extract from a report submitted by Mr. W. P. Grant, M.M., Hon. Secretary to the Northfleet Diamond Jubilee Samaritan Fund :—

“ It is with pleasure that the Committee present the 58th Annual Report on the work of the Fund during the past year, and in doing so desire to express their thanks to all subscribers for their continued support and to the Members of the Northfleet Urban District Council for their kindness in placing rooms at their disposal in which to hold their meetings and for the storing of nursing requisites.

“ During the year the Committee decided that they could not continue the arrangement made with the Kent County Council for running the Home Nursing Service in Northfleet and accordingly gave the Council notice that the existing arrangement would have to cease on 30th June, 1955. To this the County Council agreed and took over the Home Nursing Service as from 1st July, 1955.

“ The Charity Commission has been asked to formulate a new scheme for the Fund.”

# CAUSES OF DEATHS IN NORTHFLEET URBAN DISTRICT, 1955.

Causes of Death.							Male	Female
All causes	...	...	...	...	...	...	III	89
Tuberculosis respiratory	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	I
Tuberculosis, other	...	...	...	...	...	...	I	—
Syphilitic disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Meningococcal infections	...	...	...	...	...	...	I	—
Acute poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Measles	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Other infective and parasitic diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	I
Cancer of stomach	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	I
Cancer of lung, bronchus	...	...	...	...	...	...	7	—
Cancer of breast	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	3
Cancer of uterus	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	I
Cancer of all other sites	...	...	...	...	...	...	13	5
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	I
Diabetes	...	...	...	...	...	...	I	2
Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	...	...	...	...	...	17	15
Coronary disease, angina	...	...	...	...	...	...	20	9
Hypertension with heart disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	3
Other heart disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	II	2I
Other circulatory disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	2
Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	4
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	7	7
Other diseases of the respiratory system	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	—
Ulcer of the stomach or duodenum	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	—
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	2
Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	—
Pregnancy, childbirth abortion	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Congenital malformation	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	I
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	9
Motor Vehicle accidents	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	—
All other accidents	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	—
Suicide	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	I
Homicide	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—



## B. GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

*Services available under the National Health Services Act, 1948 and the National Assistance Act, 1948.*

### Care of Mothers and Young Children.

From the 6th July, 1948, the Kent County Council have been the responsible authority for providing these services and I am indebted to the County Medical Officer and his staff for the following information regarding facilities available and hours of attendance at the Clinics :—

### Ante-Natal Clinics and Post-Natal Clinics.

Advice and ante-natal care is given and post-natal examinations are carried out :—

The Conservative Club, Perry Street—1st and 3rd Wednesday mornings.

### Child Welfare Centres.

These centres are available for giving advice as to the care of infants and children under the age of five years. Infant foods, National Dried Milk and Ministry of Food Vitamin products are issued. A Medical Officer and a Health Visitor are in attendance at each centre.

Council Offices Annexe—Thursday afternoons.

Toddlers, 1st Thursday.

Conservative Club, Perry Street—Wednesday afternoons.

Harden V.C. Memorial Hall—Tuesday afternoons.

Istead Rise Memorial Centre—1st and 3rd Tuesday afternoons.

### Diphtheria Immunisation and Vaccination.

Facilities for diphtheria immunisation and vaccination are available at the Council Offices, Northfleet, on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays from 10 to 11 a.m., and at all Child Welfare Centres.

### Domestic Help Service.

This service is to provide domestic help for households where such help is required owing to the presence of any person who is ill, lying in, an expectant mother, mentally defective, aged, or a child not over compulsory school age. Evening service and urgent attendant services is also provided for elderly persons. Family Help Services can be arranged during the absence of the mother from home. Householders are required to contribute towards the cost in accordance with their means.

Application should be made to :—

Miss J. M. Cook,

District Office,

Arthur Street, Gravesend.

Telephone : Gravesend 166.



## Health Visitors.

These officers are appointed for the purpose of giving advice as to the care of young children, persons suffering from illness and expectant and nursing mothers and as to the measures necessary to prevent the spread of infection.

The Health Visitors also undertake duties in connection with the School Health Service.

Health Visitors :—

Mrs. M. Marks, S.R.N.

Mrs. I. Cross, S.R.N., (appointed April, 1956)

M. & C.W. Department, Council Offices, Northfleet.

## Domiciliary Midwifery Service.

This service, which is free, is to secure that an adequate number of midwives is employed by the County Council for attending women in their own homes, either as midwives or maternity nurses.

The names and addresses and telephone number of County Midwives in the area are given below.

Midwives :—

\*Miss L. M. Mills,  
85 Whitehill Road, Gravesend. Gravesend 2980

\*Miss E. M. Hudson,  
1 Lawrence Drive, Cobham. Cobham 328

Miss A. J. Woods,  
37 Hardy Avenue, Northfleet. Gravesend 5165

Mrs. D. M. Kemp,  
67 Broomfield Road, Swanscombe. Greenhithe 3110

\*Miss Mills serves only Burch Road, Cross Road, Lansdowne Square and Pier Road, the remainder of her district being in Gravesend.

\*Miss Hudson serves only Arcadia Road, Downs Road and Lewis Road, all in Istead Rise, the remainder of her district being in Strood Rural District.

Facilities are available to expectant mothers for booking and examination by Midwives at M.C.W. Centre, Council Offices, every other Wednesday 2-4 p.m., and at the M.C.W. Centre, Conservative Club, Perry Street, Northfleet, 2nd and 4th Tuesdays, 2-4 p.m.

## Home Nursing Service.

This service, which is free, is to secure the attendance of nurses on persons who require nursing in their own homes. Apart from cases of emergency and accident, patients can only be attended when the nurse has been requested to do so by a doctor. At the present time it is not possible to provide a night service.

The names, addresses and telephone numbers of Home Nurses in the area are given below.

Home Nurses : Mrs. M. O'Flynn, S.R.N.,  
92 Windmill Street, Gravesend.  
Telephone : Gravesend 6675.

Mrs. L. V. Rampling,  
Church Cottage,  
London Road, Greenhithe.  
Telephone : Greenhithe 2197.

Both nurses attend at the Council Offices, Northfleet, 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. daily.

## **County Ambulance Service.**

The County Council is responsible for the provision of a comprehensive ambulance service throughout the County. Other than in cases of accident and emergency, no ambulance will be provided except on the recommendation of a doctor, midwife, or hospital, and in the case of sitting-case cars a special form has to be completed and signed by a doctor.

In cases of accident or emergency, if an ambulance is required, telephone '999' or (as indicated in the telephone directory or public telephone box), and ask the operator for "Ambulance."

## **Provision of Nursing Requisites.**

Arrangements have been made with the British Red Cross Society and St. John Ambulance Brigade for the continuance of the Medical Loan Depots, on behalf of the County Council. The full range of nursing requisites are available at these depots and details of the addresses and the times the depots are open for distribution are available in the district offices. These arrangements are in addition to the loan cupboards kept by District Nurses. The depots deal with all applications for the loan of nursing requisites.

Northfleet: (St. John) Mrs. H. Banks, 137 Vale Road, Monday to Friday, 7.30 p.m.- 9 p.m. (Mr. C. J. Sims, Telephone: Gravesend 3517).

## **Mental Welfare.**

Dr. L. M. Allen, Senior Assistant County Medical Officer, is Medical Officer for Mental Welfare. Dr. Allen's address is County Hall, Maidstone (Telephone: Maidstone 4321).

An Occupation Centre for mentally defective children is held at the Anglo-Saxon Hall, Berkley Road, Gravesend, from Monday to Friday each week, 10 a.m. to 3.30 p.m., and children from the Northfleet area may attend this Centre if suitable. A home teacher for defectives unsuitable or unable to attend the Centre is also available in the area. Information regarding this service can be obtained from the County Medical Officer, County Hall, Maidstone.

## **Blind Persons.**

Information on matters affecting the blind can be obtained from the County Medical Officer, County Hall, Maidstone (Tel. Maidstone 4321—ext. 588), and the Secretary of the Kent County Association for the Blind, 15 Ashford Road, Maidstone (Telephone: Maidstone 3717).

Financial assistance is provided by the National Assistance Board, at the address below:—

"Rosedene," 61 Shepherds Lane, Dartford.

A Local Officer is now available at "Ravenscourt," Pelham Road, Gravesend. The hours of attendance are 2-4 p.m. daily and 9 a.m.-12 noon on Saturdays.

## **School Health Service.**

The following clinics are available for children attending schools in Northfleet:—

Minor Ailments: West Kent House, Station Road, Northfleet. Medical Officer attends every Saturday morning 9.30 a.m.-12 noon.

Dental: West Kent House, Station Road, Northfleet. Dental Surgeon attends every Monday and Tuesday, alternate Wednesdays and Saturdays. Except in emergencies children are treated by appointment only.



Ophthalmic :	Gravesend and North Kent Hospital	)	
Speech Therapy :	107 Rochester Road Denton, Gravesend.	)	Attendance at these clinics is by appointment only. Application should be made to the Principal School Medical Officer, County Hall, Maidstone.
Child Guidance :	Woodside Road, Bexley Heath.	)	

### District Officers.

These officers are responsible for :

- (a) Duties as Authorised Officers under the Lunacy and Mental Treatment Acts and Mental Deficiency Acts.
- (b) Acting as representatives of the County Health Department in dealing with inquiries made by the public and arranging for County Health Services to be made available in cases of difficulty.
- (c) Carrying out the duties of the County Council under the National Assistance Act in (i) arranging admissions of old, handicapped and homeless people to residential establishments other than in cases of sickness, and (ii) the care of movable property of patients who are admitted to hospital or to residential establishments provided by the Council, where it appears that there is danger of loss or damage to the property.
- (d) Distribution of Welfare Foods.

District Officer : Mr. G. T. Jeffery, Arthur Street, Gravesend.  
Telephone : Gravesend 166.

### Hospital Services.

The hospital and specialist services, including institutions for the chronic sick, mental homes, maternity homes, convalescent homes, chest clinics and out-patients' departments are administered by the Regional Hospital Boards set up by the Minister of Health, the South-East Metropolitan Regional Board is responsible for all hospitals in Kent, but for day-to-day administration Hospital Management Committees have been set up to deal with groups of hospitals. Generally speaking admission to hospital is a matter for the doctor in charge of the patient and he will make arrangements direct with the hospital authorities, calling upon the County Ambulance Service for the removal of the patient to hospital where this is considered necessary.

### Nursery School.

The Northfleet Nursery School provides accommodation for the daily care of children between the ages of 3 and 5 years. Priority is given to the children of mothers who must go to work in order to supplement insufficient wages, widows, children living in unhealthy, cramped home conditions, or where a doctor recommends admittance because of unsuitable home life. The staff is trained to deal with difficult children who need more psychological understanding than that provided at home.

Hours of attendance at the Nursery Schools are from 9 a.m. to 3.30 p.m., with normal school holiday periods. Meals are provided for the sum of 2/6d. per week. In addition to the ordinary diet, Ministry of Health Cod Liver Oil Compound, Orange Juice and two-thirds of a pint of milk may be given.

At present 40 children are accommodated at the Nursery—most of them being from the Northfleet area—Application for admission should be made to the Superintendent (Mrs. Dowker), at the Northfleet Nursery School, London Road, Northfleet



## Treatment of Anthrax, Botulism, Snake-bite and Mushroom Poisoning.

List of the nearest centres which keep emergency supplies of sera for the treatment of anthrax, botulism, snake-bite and mushroom (*Amanita phalloides*) poisoning. A 24-hour service is maintained at each centre.

	Telephone No.
Region 6 : N.E. Metropolitan North Middlesex Hospital, N.17. Day—Chief Pathologist. Night—Resident Pathologist.	Tottenham 3071
Region 7 : S.E. Metropolitan South East Sub-Depot, Weaving House, Ashford Road, Maidstone, Kent. Day Service Night Service	Maidstone 4468 Maidstone 3604 Maidstone 4660 Maidstone 3718
Region 8 : S.W. Metropolitan South London Blood Supply Depot, Stanley Road, Sutton, Surrey.	Vigilant 8221
The Dispensary, Royal South Hants and Southampton Hospital (Snake Anti-Serum only)	Southampton 76211

## Registrar of Births and Deaths.

Mr. D. A. Gough,

Hours of attendance :

6 Berkley Crescent, Gravesend.	Mondays	9.30— 1 p.m.
	Tuesdays	2.00— 4 p.m.
	Wednesdays	9.30— 1 p.m.
	Thursdays	9.30— 1 p.m.
		2.00— 4 p.m.
	Fridays	9.30— 1 p.m.
	Saturdays	9.30—11 a.m.
36 Springhead Road, Northfleet	Mondays	2.00— 4 p.m.
	Fridays	5.00— 6 p.m.

## Convalescent Treatment and Recuperative Care.

Convalescent treatment is that provided for a patient requiring more or less continued medical or nursing care and is the responsibility of the Regional Hospital Board, 11 Portland Place, London, W.1., to provide and arrange such treatment.

Recuperative care can be provided by the County Council as Local Health Authority where the person has suffered from an illness which has been treated at home or in hospital and, whilst still in need of medical or nursing care of the type provided by a general practitioner or home nurse, the home conditions are such that the patient cannot recuperate at home. The County Council is required to make a charge for this service assessed under the County Council's regulations in accordance with the patient's means and an agreement must be signed to make such payment to the Council as is assessed.

## **Family Help Service.**

The above service caters for children who would be taken into County care during the absence of the mother due to illness, etc. Application is made to the Children's Officer, who then contacts the County Medical Officer. The Home Help Organiser visits the home to discuss hours of duty—payment for food, etc., and the Health Visitor gives a report on home conditions as she knows them. The Family Help cares for the children and the home while father is at work—if necessary staying overnight. I know of 3 cases in Northfleet where this service has been used and the parents have been well satisfied.

## **NIGHT ATTENDANT SERVICE.**

Night attendant service is now available for old people but is limited to cases where the help required cannot be provided by voluntary agencies. The arrangements include evening service, preparation for sleep, provision of meals, attention to fires and night service. Application for this service should generally be made through the family doctor. Further information is obtainable from the Domestic Help Organiser, Miss J. M. Cook, District Office, Arthur Street, Gravesend. Telephone: Gravesend 166.

## **NORTHFLEET OLD PEOPLE'S WELFARE COMMITTEE.**

The Northfleet Old People's Welfare Committee continued its activities throughout the year.

The Committee, whose members are formed from various local organisations, is maintained by voluntary subscriptions and grants from charitable organisations.

It is affiliated to the Kent Council of Social Service, and its objects are to provide facilities for physical and mental recreation, the relieving of poverty, distress or sickness and the pursuing of any objects of a charitable nature not otherwise provided for by statutory authorities or local organisations.

Amongst other things, the Committee helped more than 50 people financially and Christmas gifts valued ten shillings were given to 100 old people, and outings arranged, similar to last year.

The chiropody scheme now covers more people, also, some sickroom requirements, rubber sheets, bedpans, etc., are available for loan, free of charge.

This Committee, which was formed in 1951, is progressing most satisfactorily. Mr. F. Messam is Chairman of the Committee for the year 1956/7, and the Honorary Secretary is Mrs. I. Walter, 44 Seymour Road, Northfleet.

## C. PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

The statement below shows the number of cases of notifiable diseases occurring over the previous 5 years :—

	1951		1952		1953		1954		1955	
	No.	Deaths	No.	Deaths	No.	Deaths	No.	Deaths	No.	Deaths
Scarlet Fever	5	—	24	—	28	—	22	—	83	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	335	—	75	—	188	—	2	—	478	—
Enteric or Typhoid	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	100	1	61	—	55	2	91	—	4	—
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	20	5	14	4	17	5	6	5	12	4
Dysentery	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Cerebro Spinal Meningitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	4	—	1	—	1	—	2	—	3	—

Application for the admission of infectious diseases to hospital should be made to the Medical Superintendent of the River Hospital, Joyce Green. Telephone : Dartford 3231. In the case of smallpox, admission to hospital is arranged by the Consultant who diagnoses the disease or by the Medical Officer of Health on his behalf.

### Scarlet Fever.

Cases notified during year ... 83

### Diphtheria.

No cases were notified.

### Poliomyelitis.

Three cases were notified—one paralytic and two non-paralytic.



IMMUNISATION AND VACCINATION.

I have received the following returns giving (a) the number of children resident in the district who were immunised against Diphtheria and (b) the number of persons who were vaccinated against smallpox during the year 1955 :

(a) Diphtheria Immunisation.

Year of Birth	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946	1945	1944	1943	1942	1941	Total
Primary Innoculations	30	216	14	8	8	10	2	3								291
Re-inforcing Inoculations	—	—	—	—	27	130	12	1	7	4	1	5	1	1	—	189

(b) Vaccination.

Year of Birth	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946	1945	1944	1943	1942	1941	Before 1941	Total
Primary Vaccination	162	88	4	—	—	1	—	—	—	1						7	263
Re-Vaccination					1	—	1	—	—	—	1					18	21

The following return shows the number of children resident in the district and under the age of 15 years on the 31st December, 1955, who had completed a course of immunisation at any time before that date, that is, at any time since 1st January, 1941.

Year of Birth	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	Total
Last complete course of injections (whether primary or booster) 1951-1955	3	6	11	23	35	207	258	212	227	274	277	219	258	254	30	2294
1950 or earlier	138	127	167	113	119	25	19	22	48	—	—	—	—	—	—	814

## TUBERCULOSIS.

The following statement relates to the number of cases appearing on the Council's Register at 31st December, 1955 :—

	Pulmonary.			Non-Pulmonary.			Pul. and Non-Pul. Totals
	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total	
(a) No. of cases of Tuberculosis on the register at the commencement of the year ...	122	83	205	11	9	20	225
(b) No. of cases remaining on register at the end of the year	125	85	210	10	9	19	229
(c) No. of cases notified during the year ...	3	2	5	—	1	1	6
(d) No. of deaths during the year	3	1	4	1	—	1	5

Ages and occupations of persons notified during the year are as follows :—

Age	M.	F.	Occupation.
19			Ship's Steward
		44	Housewife
		35	Housewife
52			Meter Reader
37			Laboratory Assistant

## VENEREAL DISEASES.

This Clinic, under the administration of the Medway and Gravesend Hospital Management Committee, is conducted by C. D. Routh, Esq., M.D., M.R.C.P. The following particulars refer to patients from Northfleet.

NEW PATIENTS (NORTHFLEET).					Male.	Female.	Total
Syphilis	...	...	...	...	1	—	1
Gonorrhoea	...	...	...	...	3	—	3
Non-venereal	...	...	...	...	11	4	15
Total ...					15	4	19

Total No. of new patients from all areas	...	259
Total No. of attendances from all areas	...	1,415
Total No. of attendances from Northfleet	...	117

DISCHARGES (ALL DISTRICTS) CURED.					Male	Female	Total
Syphilis ...	...	...	...	...	—	1	1
Gonorrhoea	...	...	...	...	22	12	34
Non-Venereal	...	...	...	...	121	16	137
Total					143	29	172

## CIRCULAR 2831—PROMOTION OF CLEANLINESS, GOOD HABITS AND THE ELIMINATION OF VERMINOUS CONDITIONS.

Cleansing Station, Brook Vale, Northfleet, is adapted for the cleansing of verminous persons ; lethane is used in cases of infestation of the head. Clothing is disinfected by steam whilst patients are undergoing treatment.

One person was treated during 1956.

## D. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF AREA

### SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

The construction of the main southern sewer was completed during the year. The immediate purpose of this sewer is to provide drainage facilities for the Council's new housing estates on the Painter's Ash Site. It will ultimately, however, be extended to take the New Barn, Istead Rise and Durndale Lane areas within the boundaries of Northfleet, and provision has been made in the design of the sewer for the drainage of Meopham and surrounding parts in the area of the Strood R.D.C. and the village of Southfleet and surrounding parts in the area of the Dartford R.D.C.

Twenty-four samples of effluent taken from the sewage works at various points were found to be satisfactory.

### Water Supply.

The public supply to Northfleet is provided by two wells situated at the Pumping Station, Downs Road, owned by the Gravesend and Milton Water Company, one being a deep well sunk in chalk and the other a borehole sunk to a depth of eight hundred feet to obtain water from the green sand stratum.

All samples are chlorinated and dechlorinated at the source, and samples of raw water and treated water before going into supply are submitted for bacteriological contamination at regular monthly intervals, and a chemical analysis at three monthly intervals. Altogether, during the year, a total of 24 samples of both untreated and treated water were submitted to the County Laboratories for bacteriological examination, and four samples were examined by the County Analyst.

It was not necessary during the year to take any action in respect of any form of contamination.

Practically the whole of the houses in the area are supplied from the public mains with an internal piped supply. Ten houses in the district are supplied by means of standpipes in the yard. These houses are old, and will be dealt with under the Council's programme of Slum Clearance in due course.



Date of Sample, 1955.	No. of Organisms per c.c. capable of growth on Agar at :		Remarks.
	37°C.	22°C.	
17th January	0	0	Good water.
	0	0	There is evidence of recent faecal contamination.
	0	0	Good water.
	1	0	Good water.
10th February	2	0	Good water.
	0	41	No evidence of recent faecal contamination.
	0	0	Good water.
	0	17	Good water.
16th March	0	0	Good water.
	0	3	Good water.
	0	2	Good water.
	0	0	Good water.
21st April	0	4	Good water.
	0	0	Good water.
	0	0	Good water.
11th May	2	27	Good water.
	0	0	Good water.
	0	36	No evidence of recent faecal contamination.
22nd June	0	47	No evidence of faecal contamination.
	0	0	Good water.
29th June	0	0	Good water.
	0	0	Good water.
13th July	0	0	Good water.
	45	0	No evidence of recent faecal contamination.
	0	12	No evidence of recent faecal contamination.
	0	3	Good water.
17th August	0	0	Good water.
	1	0	Good water.
24th August	1	0	Good water.
	18	15	No evidence of recent faecal contamination.
27th September	0	10	Good water.
	0	0	Good water.
	0	0	Good water.
	0	0	Good water.

Probable number per 100ml. of  
Coliform bacilli. Faecal Coli.

19th October	None	None	Highly satisfactory.
	None	None	Highly satisfactory.
	None	None	Highly satisfactory.
	None	None	Highly satisfactory.
16th November	None	None	Highly satisfactory.
	None	None	Highly satisfactory.
	None	None	Highly satisfactory.
	None	None	Highly satisfactory.
8th December	None	None	Highly satisfactory.
	None	None	Highly satisfactory.
	3	None	Highly satisfactory.

In addition to submitting samples for bacteriological examination a chemical analysis is obtained from the Kent County Analyst, as necessary.

The Analyst's reports for 1955 are given below :—

PHYSICAL CHARACTERS.

	1	2	3	4
	Clear	Clear	Clear	Clear
Odour	None	None	None	None
Deposit	None	None	None	None
pH	7.60	7.54	7.32	7.57

CHEMICAL EXAMINATION. Parts per Million

Solids in Suspension (Dried at 100 deg. C)	—	—	—	—
Solids in Solution (Dried at 180 deg. C)	303	358	364	410
„ „ After ignition	280	326	339	388
Chlorides calculated as Chlorine	17	17	18	16
Free and Saline Ammonia (as Nitrogen)	none	none	none	none
Albuminoid Ammonia (as Nitrogen)	none	none	none	none
Nitric Nitrogen (Nitrates)	3.0	3.0	5	5
Nitrous Nitrogen (Nitrates)	none	none	none	none
Oxygen Absorbed in $\frac{1}{4}$ hour at 26.7°C	0.05	0.04	0.07	0.07
„ „ „ 4 hours at 26.7°C	0.12	0.11	0.11	0.12
Toxic Metals	not detected	not detected	not detected	not detected
Free and Combined Residual Chlorine on Receipt	not detected	— detected	not detected	0.15 detected
Total hardness	292	292	276	292

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION.

Number of Colonies developing upon agar

- (a) In two days at 37°C ... 1 per ml. 33 per ml. 4 per ml. 11 per ml.  
(b) In three days at 22°C ... 3 „ „ 72 „ „ 5 „ „ 280 „ „

Presumptive Coliform count per 100 ml.	none	none	none	none
Including Faecal Coli	none	none	none	none

All samples were fit for drinking.

## E. HOUSING.

### CLEARANCE AREAS AND INDIVIDUAL UNFIT HOUSES.

Return for the Year Ended 31st December, 1955.

#### PART A. CLEARANCE AREAS (Housing Act, 1936 and Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954).

	Number of Dwellinghouses demolished in the period		Number of persons displaced
	Unfit houses	Other houses	
(1) Land coloured pink and pink hatched yellow ... ..	Nil	Nil	Nil
(2) Land coloured grey ... ..	Nil	Nil	Nil

#### PART B. HOUSES NOT INCLUDED IN CLEARANCE AREAS.

	Number of	
	Houses	Persons displaced
<b>Houses demolished or closed in the period.</b>		
(1) Housing Act, 1936		
(a) Demolished as a result of formal or informal procedure (Section 11) ... ..	I	4
(b) Closed in pursuance of an undertaking given by owners under Section 11 and still in force ... ..	Nil	Nil
(c) Parts of building closed (Section 12) ... ..	Nil	Nil
(2) Housing Act, 1949		
Closed as a result of closing orders under Sections 3 (1) and 3 (2) ... ..	2	7
(3) Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953.		
Closed as a result of closing orders under Sections 10 (1) and 11 (2) ... ..	2	7
<b>Repairs in the period.</b>		<b>Number of houses</b>
(4) Unfit houses rendered fit and houses in which defects were remedied during the period as a result of informal action by the local authority under the Housing or Public Health Acts ... ..		180
(5) Public Health Acts—action after service of formal notice :		
Houses in which defects were remedied—		
(a) By owners ... ..		24
(b) By local authority in default of owners ... ..		Nil
(6) Housing Act, 1936—action after service of formal notice (Sections 9, 10, 11 and 16) :		
Houses made fit.		
(a) By owners ... ..		I
(b) By local authority in default of owners ... ..		Nil
(7) Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954.		
Houses reconstructed, enlarged or improved and Demolition Orders revoked (Section 5) ... ..		Nil



**PART C. UNFIT HOUSES IN TEMPORARY USE.** (Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954).

Position at end of period.	Number of houses
(8) (a) Houses retained for temporary accommodation and approved for grant under Section 7 ...	Nil
(b) Separate dwellings contained in (a) above ...	Nil
(c) Houses licensed for temporary occupation (Section 6) ... ..	Nil

**PART D. PURCHASE OF HOUSES BY AGREEMENT.**

	Number of houses
(9) Houses in Clearance Areas, other than those included in confirmed Clearance Orders or Compulsory Purchase Orders, purchased in the period ...	Nil

**HOUSING REPAIRS AND RENTS ACT, 1954.**

This Act, which came into operation during August, 1954, provided two separate distinct approaches to housing. The first provides for the repair and demolition of unfit houses, and the second allows rent increases for expenditure incurred on repairs.

The first part of the Act required the preparation of a programme of Clearance of Unfit Houses, and its submission to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government within one year.

In Northfleet's case, this programme will be based upon the survey undertaken during 1943, which will be brought up-to-date in the light of present-day circumstances.

The second part of the Act provides the main and continuing tasks falling upon Local Authorities for dealing with applications for Certificates of Disrepair. These applications will arise where the landlord claims an increase of rent for expenditure incurred on repairs, and where the tenant is of the opinion that the house is not in a sufficiently good state of repair.

The Act is explicit on conditions which must be fulfilled before claims for rent increases can be made, and the Local Authority are required, in the first instance, to act as arbitrators where the tenant disputes the landlord's contention that the house is in a satisfactory condition.

## ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION.

Northfleet is a constituent member of the Thames-side Advisory Committee for the Abatement of Atmospheric Pollution. The Committee have a comprehensive system of air pollution measurement, and Northfleet has a standard deposit gauge situated at Huggens College. The following is the tabulated results obtained by this gauge for the 12 months ending 31st December, 1955 :—

Monthly Deposit in Grams per 100 square metres, 1955.

	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June
Rain in inches ... ..	34.70	35.00	19.00	11.00	82.00	41.00
Water-Insoluble Matter ... ..	560	1,013	866	669	1,155	1,416
Soluble in C.S.2 ... ..	2	4	3	1	3	5
Ash ... ..	450	877	720	540	893	1,063
Other Combustible Matter...	108	132	143	128	260	348
Total Water Soluble Matter	558	931	662	446	987	823
Calcium (Ca <sup>xx</sup> ) ... ..	137	228	155	99	226	184
Chloride (Cl') ... ..	28	48	32	26	57	43
Sulphate (SO <sup>''</sup> <sub>4</sub> ) ... ..	209	360	259	162	309	228
Total Solids ... ..	1,118	1,944	1,528	1,115	2,142	2,239

  

	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Rain in inches ... ..	1.05	4.00	57.77	84.48	9.87	38.56
Water-Insoluble Matter ... ..	1,598	1,568	1,051	1,130	850	710
Soluble in CS <sub>2</sub> ... ..	4	5	1	4	3	2
Ash ... ..	1,010	1,168	796	881	573	584
Other Combustible Matter...	584	395	254	245	273	124
Total Water Soluble Matter	403	584	795	1,063	570	653
Calcium (Ca <sup>xx</sup> ) ... ..	72	132	184	226	133	150
Chloride (Cl') ... ..	20	36	62	97	30	43
Sulphate (SO <sup>''</sup> <sub>4</sub> ) ... ..	171	222	258	373	227	241
Total Solids ... ..	2,001	2,152	1,846	2,193	1,420	1,363

### Estimation of Sulphur Lead Peroxide Method.

Weight of BaSO <sub>4</sub>				Wt. of SO <sub>3</sub> collected	Mg. of SO <sub>3</sub> /3 day collected by 100 sq. cm. of Batch A PbO <sub>2</sub> (Louvred cover)	
Area Exposed	in sample	in control	due to exposure			
	sq. cm.	mg.	mg.	mg.	Mg/100 sq. cm./day	
July	100	69.6	3.6	66.0	0.71	0.64
August	95	52.8	6.4	46.4	0.56	0.50
September	95	77.2	6.8	70.4	0.79	0.71
October	100	126.8	4.6	122.2	1.44	1.30
November	100	128.4	5.2	123.2	1.46	1.31
December	105	130.0	3.2	126.8	1.29	1.16

## F. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

### FOOD PREPARING PREMISES.

Restaurants, restaurant kitchens and canteens are subjected to routine inspection by the Sanitary Inspectors at regular intervals.

### CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

Number Killed (if known)	...	Cattle excluding Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
		Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil.

### MILK.

#### (a) Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949 (Part III).

No of registered distributors	One
No. of registered dairies	One

#### (b) Licences Granted under Milk (Special Designations) Regulations, 1949, excluding licenses granted by Food and Drug authorities in relation to milk pasteurised or sterilised on the premises of the applicant.

			Dealers.	Supplementary.
Pasteurised	...	...	4	7
Sterilised	...	...	30	4
T.T. (raw)	...	...	1	4
Accredited	...	...	Nil	Nil

#### (c) Milk Sampling.

			Samples Taken.	Number of Unsatisfactory Samples.
Pasteurised	...	...	26	2
T.T. ...	...	...	1	Nil
Sterilised	...	...	17	Nil
Accredited	...	...	Nil	Nil
Biological Examination of raw milks	...	...	Nil	Nil

### ICE CREAM (HEAT TREATMENT) REGULATIONS, 1947 and 1948.

No premises in the district are registered for the manufacture of ice cream under these Regulations, but there are 54 premises registered for the sale of ice cream.

Thirty-six samples of ice cream were submitted to the County Laboratories during the year for the Methylene blue test, and the following results were obtained :—

Grading	I	II	III	IV
	24	10	2	—

### FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.

Northfleet Council is not a Food and Drugs Authority under the Food and Drugs Act, this part of the Act being administered by the Kent County Council under the direction of Mr. S. Strugnell, to whom I am indebted for the following information relating to the sampling of food which has taken place in the district during the year.



Article	No. of Samples.					
Aspirin B.P.	...	...	...	...	...	I
Beef Sausages	...	...	...	...	...	I
Blackcurrant Syrup	...	...	...	...	...	I
Burgess Lion Ointment	...	...	...	...	...	I
Butter Drops	...	...	...	...	...	I
Buttered Macaroons	...	...	...	...	...	I
Cheese	...	...	...	...	...	I
Cinnamon and Quinine	...	...	...	...	...	I
Coffee Essence	...	...	...	...	...	I
Cystex Kidney, Bladder and Rheumatism Tablets	...	...	...	...	...	I
Drinking Chocolate	...	...	...	...	...	I
Glace Cherries	...	...	...	...	...	I
Golden Plums	...	...	...	...	...	I
Horlicks	...	...	...	...	...	I
Ice Cream	...	...	...	...	...	3
Jelly Crystals	...	...	...	...	...	I
Jersey Caramels	...	...	...	...	...	2
Juno Junipah Tablets	...	...	...	...	...	I
Koola Kreem	...	...	...	...	...	I
Lactachoc	...	...	...	...	...	I
Lactagol	...	...	...	...	...	I
Lard	...	...	...	...	...	I
Lemon Curd	...	...	...	...	...	I
Lollie Special	...	...	...	...	...	I
Margarine	...	...	...	...	...	I
Milk	...	...	...	...	...	29
Milk Chocolate Crunch	...	...	...	...	...	I
Mock Turtle Soup	...	...	...	...	...	I
Nurse Harvey's Mixture	...	...	...	...	...	I
Orstax Tonic	...	...	...	...	...	I
Pork Sausages	...	...	...	...	...	I
Potter's Asthma Remedy	...	...	...	...	...	I
Processed Cheese Spread	...	...	...	...	...	I
Sherry	...	...	...	...	...	I
Soup Mixture	...	...	...	...	...	I
Stoned Dates	...	...	...	...	...	I
Sultanas	...	...	...	...	...	I
Syrup of Figs	...	...	...	...	...	I
Veal and Ham Paste	...	...	...	...	...	I
Whisky	...	...	...	...	...	4
Wild Cherry Cough Linctus	...	...	...	...	...	I
Total						75

#### SUMMARY.

Milks	...	29
Drugs	...	10
Spirits	...	5
Other Samples	...	31
		75



# G. ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR 1955.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE  
NORTHFLEET URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the pleasure to submit my annual report for the year 1955.

The following tables give a general review of the work carried out:—

Number of complaints received during the year	...	...	...	...	816
Total number of visits made	...	...	...	...	3,177
Informal Notices served	...	...	...	...	180
Informal Notices complied with	...	...	...	...	167
Statutory Notices served	...	...	...	...	24
Statutory Notices complied with	...	...	...	...	18
<b>Visits made by Sanitary Inspectors during the year 1955 :—</b>					
Public Health Act, 1936	Primary visits	...	...	...	226
	Re-visits	...	...	...	551
	Infectious Disease visits	...	...	...	180
	Filthy and verminous premises	...	...	...	50
	Water supply enquiries	...	...	...	20
	Drainage inspections	...	...	...	196
	Drainage tested	...	...	...	188
	Moveable dwellings	...	...	...	23
Housing Act, 1936	Primary visits	...	...	...	424
	Re-visits	...	...	...	55
Food & Drugs Act, 1938	Food Preparing Rooms visited	...	...	...	136
	Samples taken :—				
	Ice cream	...	...	...	36
	Water	...	...	...	49
	Milk	...	...	...	40
	Sewage	...	...	...	24
	Foods condemned visits	...	...	...	20
	Visits	...	...	...	36
Factories Acts, 1937 & 1948	Re-visits	...	...	...	—
	Visits	...	...	...	129
Shops Acts	Re-visits	...	...	...	8
	Visits	...	...	...	257
Pest Extermination visits	...	...	...	...	30
Street Cleansing	...	...	...	...	150
Depots and Yards	...	...	...	...	144
Refuse Tip	...	...	...	...	13
Sewage Works	...	...	...	...	26
House Refuse collection visits	...	...	...	...	8
Salvage	...	...	...	...	72
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	16
Smoke observations	...	...	...	...	8
Mortuary inspections	...	...	...	...	1
Public conveniences	...	...	...	...	50
Air pollution	...	...	...	...	—
Civil Defence	...	...	...	...	11
Animals	...	...	...	...	



The following is a summary of nuisances and defects remedied during the year :—

Accumulations of offensive refuse, etc., removed	...	...	...	2
Animals in an unfit state	...	...	...	—
Ceilings repaired or renewed	...	...	...	19
Cesspools repaired, septic tanks repaired or renewed	...	...	...	—
Chimney stacks repaired or rebuilt	...	...	...	8
Chimney flues repaired	...	...	...	3
Doors and frames repaired or renewed	...	...	...	10
Drainage Systems :—				
Drains repaired or reconstructed	...	...	...	9
Drains cleansed	...	...	...	2
Gulley traps repaired or renewed	...	...	...	1
Dustbins	...	...	...	1
Eaves gutters repaired or renewed	...	...	...	10
Valley gutters repaired or renewed	...	...	...	1
Fireplaces repaired or renewed	...	...	...	7
Fireplaces, brickwork and plasterwork repaired	...	...	...	1
Floor repaired or relaid	...	...	...	15
Floors, sub-floors ventilation provided	...	...	...	—
Rainwater downspouts repaired or renewed	...	...	...	8
Roofs repaired	...	...	...	54
Sinks repaired or renewed	...	...	...	7
Premises redecorated or cleansed	...	...	...	—
Pest extermination and verminous and filthy rooms disinfected and cleansed	...	...	...	3
Walls, brickwork damp-proofed	...	...	...	55
Walls, internal plasterwork repaired	...	...	...	37
Walls, external repaired	...	...	...	6
Water closets :—				
External structure repaired	...	...	...	5
Internal structure repaired	...	...	...	1
Flushing cisterns repaired or renewed	...	...	...	3
Pedestal pan and traps repaired	...	...	...	1
Water supply, pipes ,etc., repaired	...	...	...	7
Windows, woodwork of frames, sashes or sills repaired or renewed	...	...	...	53
Sash lines provided	...	...	...	6
Yard surfaces repaired or renewed	...	...	...	2
Smoke nuisance	...	...	...	5
Natural Lighting improved	...	...	...	2

## INFECTION AND DISINFECTION.

The Northfleet Council have an arrangement with the Strood Rural District Council and Swanscombe Urban District Council whereby facilities for disinfection of premises and articles are provided by the Northfleet Council, on a rechargeable basis. Infected articles are treated at the steam-disinfection station at Brookvale Depot, Northfleet, and the premises are sprayed with formalin solution and formaldehyde gas. Transport is provided by Northfleet.

During the year 270 visits were made investigating cases of infectious disease and supervising the work of disinfecting. After such disinfection it is emphasised to the householders that their premises should be thoroughly cleansed.

The following is the statement of disinfecting carried out during the year :—

	Northfleet.	Swanscombe.	Strood.
Scarlet Fever	53	12	3
Tuberculosis	8	6	3
Cancer	1	—	—
Poliomyelitis	3	1	—

## INFESTATION AND DISINFESTATION.

Three premises were treated for bed bugs by spraying with a liquid insecticide followed by fumigation with sulphur candles. Bedding and clothing also, where necessary, being treated at the Brookvale Depot.

The services of the steam-disinfector are also made available to the Swanscombe U.D.C. and the Strood R.D.C., when required.

## BAKEHOUSES.

The four bakehouses operating within the district were regularly visited during the year, and found to be in a satisfactory condition.

## RATS AND MICE.

A scheme of pest control operated on lines approved by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries is now in operation in the district. The following is a summary of the work carried out :—

Premises inspected during the year	...	...	1,081
Premises found to be infested with rats		...	85
Premises found to be infested with mice		...	14
Premises treated by Local Authority	...	...	94

## DRAIN TESTING.

In addition to existing drainage all new drainage works are inspected and tested by the Sanitary Inspectors. During the year 196 inspections were made and on 188 occasions tests of the various systems were carried out.

**FACTORIES ACT, 1937.**

The following list shows details of factories inspected during the year 1955 :—

**(1) Inspections.**

Premises.	Number on Register.	Inspections.	Number of Notices.	Prose- cutions.
(i) Factories in which Secs. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ...	6	6	1	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) to which Sec. 7 applies ...	29	30	6	—
Total ...	35	36	7	—

**(2) Cases in which defects were found.**

Particulars.	No. of cases in which defects were found.					
	Found.	Remedied.	Referred To H.M. Inspec- tors.	By H.M. Inspec- tors.	Prose- cutions.	
Want of Cleanliness (S1) ...	1	1	—	—	—	
Overcrowding (S2) ...	—	—	—	—	—	
Unreasonable Temperature (S3) ...	—	—	—	—	—	
Inadequate Ventilation S4) ...	—	—	—	—	—	
Ineffective Drainage of floors (S6) ...	—	—	—	—	—	
Sanitary Conveniences (S7) ...	—	—	—	—	—	
(a) Insufficient ...	—	—	—	—	—	
(b) Unsuitable or defective ...	9	9	—	—	—	
(c) Not separate for sexes ...	—	—	—	—	—	
Total ...	10	10	—	—	—	

**PUBLIC CLEANSING DEPARTMENT.**

During the year 7,739 tons (estimated) of refuse were collected and disposed of by means of controlled tipping.

**CESSPOOL AND GULLEY EMPTYING.**

During the year 191 cesspools were emptied. The cesspool emptying vehicle is also used for emptying and cleansing surface water gulleys on the highways, and storm-well soakaways.

As new houses and roads come into use the services of this particular vehicle for catchpit and gulley emptying is being increasingly required.

I am,  
Your obedient Servant,  
J. S. COWPLAND,  
Chief Sanitary Inspector,  
Cleansing Superintendent.



